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NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

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NFIB-14.2/6
22 May 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

FROM : Walter Elder
Secretary

SUBJECT : Interagency Intelligence Production

REFERENCE : NFIB-14.2/5, 12 March 1980

The attached memoranda are for your information.

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WALTER ELDER

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Attachment
As Stated

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

Attachment to
NFIB-14.2/6
22 May 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Foreign Intelligence Board

SUBJECT : Interagency Intelligence Production

Attached is the final version of the "Forms of Interagency Intelligence Production" guidelines, a draft of which we circulated in March. Most of your comments are reflected in the new text. Some, however, suggest a misunderstanding of our intent. The sentence at the end of Paragraphs 1a and 1b is drawn from the most recent version of NSCID #1 (17 Feb 1972): [USIB] will advise and assist the Director of Central Intelligence with respect to:...(2) The production of national intelligence. Our purpose is to maintain the role of NFIB, and indeed to strengthen it by producing more NIEs and SNIEs and fewer IIMs.

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Bruce C. Clarke, Jr.

Attachment

(21 May 1980)

This memo can be downgraded to
UNCLASSIFIED when separated
from attachment

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21 May 1980

FORMS OF INTERAGENCY INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTION

1. Interagency intelligence production is conducted under the aegis of the National Intelligence Council. There are five standard forms for such production. Each displays any significant differences among agencies with regard to estimative judgments, along with the rationale underlying each position.

- a. National Intelligence Estimate. The NIE addresses a foreign situation of highest policy concern to the United States. The exposition is normally structured in a way that will illuminate policy issues. An NIE goes beyond the consideration of factual evidence to project likely outcomes. It is issued by the DCI with the advice and assistance of NFIB.
- b. Special National Intelligence Estimate. The SNIE shares the attributes of the NIE but addresses an urgent and specific problem. It usually stems from a request by policymakers. It is shorter and is prepared and coordinated more quickly than an NIE. It is issued by the DCI with the advice and assistance of NFIB.
- c. Interagency Intelligence Memorandum. The IIM is an assessment of a foreign situation of high policy concern to the US. The IIM often presents a considerable amount of evidential or methodological detail and may or may not present estimates about the future. It is the appropriate interagency vehicle on occasions when the paramount intelligence task is the reaching of factual determinations. The IIM is issued by the DD/NFA and is coordinated in the Intelligence Community at a level below NFIB, although representatives may seek the approval of their principals. It may be referred to NFIB and issued by the DCI if he so decides or on request of an NFIB member.

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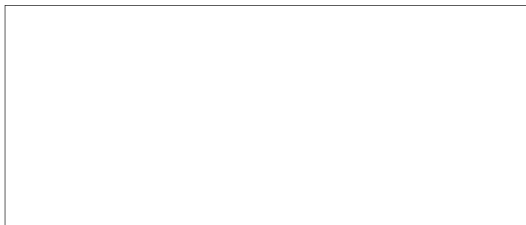
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- d. Alert Memorandum. The AM is a brief assessment warning of a current development that threatens US interests. It addresses the possible trend of events, the resulting implications for US interests, and relevant intelligence collection actions. It is the shortest and most time-urgent of the types of interagency intelligence production, and the degree of coordination within the Intelligence Community varies according to time available.
- e. The Memorandum to Holders is a device used:
- to reaffirm the findings of an existing paper after the passage of time or after significant changes in the situation.
 - to update an existing paper that does not require extensive reexamination.
 - to consider new questions or materials in conjunction with an existing, valid paper.

Memoranda to Holders are prepared to the same standards and by the same procedures as their parent papers.

2. The attached chart identifies, for comparative purposes, salient characteristics of these forms of interagency production. Each interagency project is distinctive. The decision whether it should result in an NIE, SNIE, or IIM rests on a judicious weighing of these characteristics, and should result in a higher proportion of NIEs and SNIEs and a lower proportion of IIMs than has recently been the case.

Attachment



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	Importance of Subject	Relation to Specific Policy Issues	Projects Forward?	Preferred Length	Detailed Factual Treatment	Time to Prepare	Method of Coordination
NIE	Highest	Direct, broad, basic	Yes - year or several years	Normally 10-20 pages w/annexes if necessary	Primarily in annexes	Weeks to months	NFIB principals
SNIE	Highest	Direct, focused, time-urgent	Yes - weeks or months	Normally 5-8 pages	Limited; No annexes	Days to weeks	NFIB principals (through reps)
IIM	High	Relevant but indirect	Maybe - no set limit	Indefinite	In text or annexes as appropriate	Weeks to months	Working level*
AM	Highest	Direct	Yes - days to weeks	1-2 pages	No	Hours to days	Working level

*Under referral to NFIB

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